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Flower power
The Minden Horticultural Society dressed up cozy for the Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, Nov. 15. For more photos, see inside this edition. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Minden Community Food Centre seeks support

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

November and December are the hardest months for food pantries in Ontario.

The need for food has skyrocketed. In March of this year, 2.16 million Canadians visited a food bank in Canada.

Like the rest of Canada, Haliburton County has experienced a similar surge in food insecurity.

"There has been a lot of job loss in the community," said Jean Munroe, manager of the Minden Community Food Centre. "Especially in construction."

Munroe says that single individuals relying on one income are more likely to have to visit the food centre. With uncertain economic stability in the county, every demographic has had their grocery bill impacted.

"Seniors are struggling, families are struggling," said Munroe.

With monetary donations, the food centre is able to provide essentials to those that need assistance. Things like pasta,

see FOOD CENTRE page 14

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Health Unit merger set to support multiple communities

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

"It's been 50 years," opened Ron Black, the deputy mayor of Selwyn and chair of the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Board of Health, "since the first time this was attempted in 1975. Three different attempts to merge the health units."

Black stood before county council on Nov. 12 during their regular meeting, alongside Dr. Thomas Piggott, medical officer of health and chief executive officer, and Hallie Atter, director of community health, to discuss the merging of multiple health units, now known as Lakelands Public Health.

In 2023, the province of Ontario offered a voluntary merger for public health, with a three year funding support, to create health units of 500,000 people. The new health unit combining Haliburton County with Peterborough communities hovers at about 340,000 within their catchment areas.

"Let's determine our own destiny," said Black, "and merge voluntarily with financial support before the province maybe comes back with that proposal of forced amalgamation."

Black noted that both individual health units struggled with capacity and preparedness during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was another reason they looked at joining forces to support their communities' clientele during unprecedented times.

He shared that over the past ten years, there has only been a six per cent increase in base funding towards public health; a number that does not keep up considering an inflation rate of 28 per cent over the past decade.

"Without the merger, really, we felt there would be significant program reductions in a time where both units were already struggling to maintain minimum public health standards," said Black.

Dr. Piggott echoed Black's sentiments. "We've been going through a pretty hard year," he said. "Mergers are hard … but this is really a good thing for our communities. This is about creating a stronger, larger, more capable health unit together, and having more capacity to do the important work we do."

Both Black and Piggott recognize County Councillor Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Highlands East, who sat on the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Board of Health as vice-chair, and offered support and guidance as the two units joined forces.

Piggott went into the 2026 budget, which has been approved by the board of health, and sees an increase of 3.7 per cent in expenditures, with a total expenditure of $33.70 per capita.

While the road hasn't always been smooth during the merging process, Piggott shared some successes that have come to the forefront now that they are finding their footing, including finding efficiencies around costs, maintaining continuity or all programs and services, investments to improve systems, tolls, and facilities, and meeting provincial milestones for the merger progress, to name a few. "This truly is about strengthening the public health services for the communities we deliver," he closed.

Gary Dyke, the county CAO, noted that Dr. Piggott and the staff have been admirable in the efforts made around the merger. "It showed a real understanding of the challenges faced not only broadly across public health, but also specifically for the residents of the County of Haliburton," he said. "We do appreciate the efforts that you've done … respecting the financial implications in Haliburton."

Haliburton sled dogs hit big screen with Jonas Brothers

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

The huskies from Haliburton's Winterdance Dogsled Tours were back on the big screen, making a brief appearance in the new Disney Christmas movie starring the Jonas Brothers.

Winterdance's Tanya McCready and her dogs spent three days on set in Toronto back in January for the filming of *A Very Jonas Christmas Movie,* which premiered on Friday.

"It's pretty surreal," McCready said in a telephone interview.

It's the dogs' second movie appearance in as many weeks, following the release of *Frankenstein*, which premiered in theatres late last month.

"For us, we're pretty darn proud of them, that's for sure," she said.

The owner explained the dogs' scene was short, involving them pulling a sled to bring a rescuer, played by actor Randall Park, onto a wilderness set. The sled dog team's initial involvement required a three-day commitment: one practice day to ensure the dogs and sled could run on the artificial snow, a day teaching a stunt double how to drive the sled, and the final shooting day.

McCready said the dogs were recommended for the job by crew members on the *Frankenstein* set, which the huskies worked on in the winter of 2024, describing the set experience as a bit of a "homecoming," with many familiar faces from the previous film.

"It was like coming back to people and friends that we'd worked with the winter before," she said. "And the director, Michelle Yu, she was amazing to work with."

Because the filming took place in January, the crew made special accommodations, allowing the dog team to drive their large truck right onto the set.

"The dogs are used to it and everything is set up for them," the owner explained. "They come out and chill, and we have carpets for them."

McCready said that while she did not directly interact with the Jonas Brothers, they were close by, and the dogs became instant celebrities on set. The dogs spent their downtime serving as "great therapy dogs on set," meeting countless people, and, according to their owner, generating "tons of selfies." One of the Jonas Brothers was even spotted spending time with the dogs.

"People just come and visit with them and hug them, it was pretty cool," McCready said.

Winterdance's sled dogs have appeared in three Hallmark Christmas movies and several commercials over the last decade, McCready said.

Oh Christmas Tree

The Dysart fire department brought in a tree from the Salvatori family to display in the downtown core of Haliburton over the weekend. The Lions Club and the Haliburton BIA invite people to come decorate the tree over the holiday season. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

New doctor joins local roster

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

There's good news on the physician recruitment front. On Nov. 12, Wendy Welch, physician recruitment coordinator for the County of Haliburton brought a report to county council outlining a physician incentive agreement for Dr. Max Rannie.

Rannie is a family physician, who reached out to staff in response to the local physician recruitment website. The doctor visited from Maine in July for a community visit, and has since made a commitment to Haliburton Highlands Health Services for full-time starting in April. Welch noted that he would be caring for acute patients admitted to the hospital, as well as working in the emergency department; an arrangement that represents full-time practice.

With Dr. Rannie in place, Welch shared that Dr. Paul Faulkner, HHHS Chief of Staff believes they will no longer need to recruit physicians for the emergency department. "This would fill that roster," said Welch.

According to the letter of support from HHHS staff, Dr. Rannie was awarded his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical University of the Americas in 2018, then completed a family practice residency at the Northern Light EMMC Family Medicine Residency Program in Bangor Maine in 2021.

With ties back to Ontario, Welch shared that Dr. Rannie is looking forward to returning to Canadian roots.

Staff made the recommendation that Haliburton County Council authorize the Warden and the Clerk to enter into a Medical Services Agreement with Dr. Max Rannie for a period of four years, with four $25,000 incentive payments scheduled for 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029.

Council carried the motion and unanimously approved.

Places for People makes plans for the future

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Changes are on the horizon for local housing initiative Places for People (P4P); a major theme that came out of this year's AGM, held at the Haliburton Curling Club on Nov. 8.

With 60 people in attendance, it was no secret that housing is top of mind for board members and community members alike. "We have to thank the community," said Susan Tromanhauser, board member of P4P. "I really have to praise this community for showing up."

Tromanhauser noted three major points they discussed during the AGM. Firstly, they celebrated their partnership with Peterborough's Habitat for Humanity; a collaboration made official in September of this year. The two housing-dedicated organizations have committed to building a 35-unit affordable housing co-build on Peninsula Road in Haliburton; a project that is already in motion.

The second major point was around discussing recruiting new volunteers to the organization. "We've grown very quickly over the last couple of years," said Tromanhauser, noting the 20 units P4P owns locally, as well as the two units they manage. "We have to keep our focus on affordable housing, and we're maxed out. Our board is exhausted."

Tromanhauser recognizes that the commitment to boards is challenging for many, but the organization is seeking both volunteer support, as well as an opportunity for a full-time paid position. "As much as we're proud of how we've expanded," said Tromanhauser, "it's not nearly enough."

Currently, approximately 40 per cent of Haliburton County residents spend more than 30 per cent of their income on housing, allowing them to fall into the bracket of need for affordable housing. "We've really been focusing on worker housing," said Tromanhauser, noting that many employers are struggling to secure staff based on a lack of housing in the region.

The third major point came with an audible gasp in the room when it was announced. Fay Martin, founder of Places for People, will be stepping down as director of the board. "She will still be involved with P4P, of course," said Tromanhauser. "But she will be stepping aside to focus on bigger picture things."

"Let's step back 20 years or so to 2005," opened Max Ward at the AGM. "It was then that Fay had the idea of creating an organization to provide affordable, appropriate, supportive housing.

She wanted to address the need that she could see in the community."

Ward has been affiliated with P4P alongside Martin for nearly two decades. He noted the constant increase in need around affordable housing, and the frustrations that arose due to lack of consideration. "Instead of waiting for someone else to do it, she did it," said Ward. "Fay helped to organize people and convinced others of her vision and here we are today."

Susan Tromanhauser receives a cheque for P4P from St. Peter's Anglican Church in Minden for $10,000 to go towards affordable housing in Haliburton County. /submitted

Martin has been active in the community since she first arrived in Haliburton, when a one-year contract as the coordinator of social services turned into a 15-year commitment and the development of Point in Time.

"Fay's work with Places for People tirelessly focused on advocacy," said Ward. "One way that Fay was able to advocate and spread that helpful influence was to work with Tapestry Community Capital. Through Tapestry, she was able to spread the word to other regions how to invest in their own communities through Community bonds."

Many would recognize Martin's name through our regular columns, *Poke, Peel, Pair and Ponder,* which run bi-weekly in this newspaper. "In pursuit of lifelong learning, Fay has travelled to Germany and the Netherlands to learn more about homes supporting people with dementia," said Ward. "Fay is a valued academic, researcher and community builder."

When asked about next steps during a later interview, Martin reflected on her time with P4P. "Birthing and nurturing Places for People to young adulthood has been both a challenge and a pleasure, as anything truly worthwhile is," she said. "I am confident I am leaving it in good hands. As my father said when he handed me off to the big world at age 18 - I've done the best I can, and now it's time to see how good a job I did."

Martin noted that she is grateful to be given an ancillary emeritus role, which allows her to continue to match-make people and ideas into action, including positioning P4P and Haliburton County in its place on a larger housing stage. "Ambiguously happy to leave the day-to-day work to younger hands," she said.

While the AGM wrapped up, P4P was pleasantly surprised by a cheque from the Thrift Shop in Minden through St. Peter's Anglican Church on Invergordon Avenue. The organization received $10,000 for their efforts. "We are so grateful for that," said Tromanhauser. "We can't rest on our laurels. We have to keep the focus on affordable housing."

Safety for all; County takes next steps towards GIS support

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Many longtime locals would recall when the blue 911 numbers first arrived in the community. What many may not know, is that there are strict requirements in place to maintain the project and the regulations around it.

On Nov. 12, during a regular meeting of county council, director of IT Mike March reintroduced the project to members of council. He noted that the county undertook a NG911 readiness assessment with the BH Group earlier this year, with results delivered in the fall.

Through the engagement, the BH Group analyzed the current GIS data, policy, and practices, and provided recommendations to help evolve the county's GIS service so that it meets the strict requirements of public safety data.

March introduced Holly Barkwell, the president and CEO of the BH Group. "I want to explain the importance of building a public safety grade GIS data set today," she said.

The BH Group works with Public Safety answering points, or 911 centres, on technical and operational communications. They also work with public safety organizations and municipalities and government agencies.

"I'd like to take a minute or two and explain to you the challenges we're facing with the existing 911 system," said Barkwell. "Before the introduction to wireless technology, an emergency event was tied to a single phone at a single physical address, which was provided by the 911 provider."

She noted that the process was "very straightforward," due to the event being tied to the physical location of the call.

"Mobile devices were added to carriers in the 1990s," said Barkwell, "and things got a lot more complicated." She shared that by using a technology where people could move around, the site of the emergency could be skewed as there is not one set location. This is currently the status of 911 calls as of present. "It was not a perfect solution, and it still isn't," she said.

"We are now moving to Next Generation 911, which we call NG911, which adds even more complexity." She noted that devices such as Alexa and Google can now call 911, as well as access through social media and online channels, making the access point of the emergency incredibly difficult to track.

Now that the NG911 format has rolled out, under commission's direction, Bell Canada launched a list of responsibilities for governing agencies. "One of those responsibilities include GIS data used for public safety … a direct county responsibility."

Barkwell noted that information was received from all four lower tier municipalities, as well as the County of Haliburton, with the intent of moving forward with a public safety grade GIS data set.

"This presentation just shows that we're now catapulting ourselves into this century," observed councillor Jennifer Dailloux, "and that's really, really important. Especially for a county like Haliburton."

Councillor Cecil Ryall brought up the lack of communications during the ice storm in the spring was concerning for residents, and inquired about whether the new 911 technology would support any of those challenges, to which Barkwell shared that those disconnects are not part of the specific plan. "We have been trying to work with Bell," noted CAO Gary Dyke. "I regret to say those efforts have been futile. Very disappointed in Bell's response to our requests to meet."

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Haliburton Remembers

Haliburton Legion Branch 129 held their annual Remembrance Day ceremony and parade on Nov. 11 through the downtown core. Despite sleet and snow, the ceremony paid tribute to all those who fought in the wars. /ADAM FRISK staff

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Minden Remembers

Reverend Joan Cavanaugh spoke at the Remembrance Day ceremony and conducted the Prayer of Remembrance. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Dick Schell holds the Canadian flag while walking with the colour party.

It was a cold and snowy day at the Remembrance Day ceremony on Tuesday. A sizeable crowd came out for the event in town, despite the weather.

Irondale Remembers

Sergeant Burton and Mayor Dave Burton went to view the Veterans show in Irondale following Remembrance Day. Sergeant Burton is an active member of the armed forces, and reflected on the many lives lost through the wars. /submitted

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Editorial

Kids

Emily Stonehouse

IT'S A time of year where kids are on the forefront.

And they should be. It's a season of magic and wonder. As we age, that sparkle dims and dwindles; until sometimes it sputters to a halt altogether.

Seeing this season through the eyes of my own kids has allowed me to reconnect with my inner child. The one who tossed tinsel on the evergreen that towered in our living room, and stayed up past bedtime to catch a glimpse of Santa.

But it's truly not all magic and wonder for every kid this time of year. It's also a time of pinched pockets and stretched securities. It's no secret that the cost of living has sky-rocketed; basic needs falling through the cracks at every turn.

When I spoke to representatives from Moorelands Camp in Dorset, their number one priority was "to let kids be kids".

And what does that mean, exactly? To be a kid?

That definition can change entirely based on who is sharing. But to me, to be a kid means to feel free. To let go. To explore the bold and beautiful world that was seemingly built brick by brick around you, in a way that powers you forward whilst holding onto the strings that carried you from place to place.

To be a kid is to play, to create, to ask questions and dive deeper. It's to laugh and joke and find your footing on a pathway that's comprised of hopscotch and pebbles.

It's to believe in the wonders of tomorrow, the curiosities of today.

It should be a chapter where you are unabashedly yourself as you navigate the rights and wrongs, the passions and the pleasures, the highs and the lows of a world that never stops spinning.

But so many kids don't have that.

Not now, not ever. And due to the cyclical nature of poverty, their kids won't have it, and neither did their parents.

So how do we add magic and wonder to each little life?

During a season where basics are encouraged and needed, perhaps we can take a step back and think about where the magic lies? Contributing funds to food banks is crucial, but perhaps so is contributing to kids' camps? Maybe toy drives need more focus, or Christmas cookies more shared?

It's not always easy. Many of us are making do with what we have, just barely scraping by on our own. It shouldn't be up to the individuals to make their marks. It is the responsibility of our elected officials to find the ones who fall between the cracks, and pull them to light. There are a select few who make the decisions for many, and those decisions aren't always with the marginalized at top of mind. A thought to remember during each and every election time.

But with what we can do, let us add sparkle to the season; magic and wonder and make-believe and memories. Building a foundation for our kids today, as the ones who will lead us tomorrow.

Because it's the time of year where kids are on the forefront.

And that's exactly where they should be.

Pair, Ponder

Poke, Peel

Fay Martin

The fear of death

IT'S A known fact that we are all going to die. Our culture, and perhaps our generation, seems dedicated to denying that fact. We spend our time and energy and money – in particular our money! – 'staying young'. We acknowledge we can't hold back the years, but we act as if we can cheat them of their power to move us toward The End. The ideal is that we live long and strong until some morning we wake up dead.

I have no quarrel with the ideal. My issue is that we fail to prepare ourselves and those we love to have a good, or as-good-as-possible, death. In what other world would we avoid preparing for a journey we are about to take for which there is no Fedor's or Lonely Planet, no wisdom from those who have gone before? You'd think we'd circle the wagons and share our thoughts generously and graciously.

But mostly we avoid the topic. How weird is it to include in our condolences a query about what kind of death the person had? Very (although I do it). And why is it weird? Maybe because many of us have not been present at a death. Or that the death was so mediated by medicine that it was hard to see it as a personalized event. Or that we don't have an agreed-upon definition of what a good death is, so the default position is that death is bad. Or that we think it's out of our control so there's no use in evaluating the quality of the experience.

But mostly, I think, we have bought the idea that death is an event rather than a process. It's a destination without a journey.

Dr. Sally Chivers, Trent prof in Gender and Social Justice, in a thought-provoking key-noter at a recent conference of gerontologists, asked what people feared. Because, she said, what we fear determines how we see the world which in turn determines how we behave. That validated my perception of our general stance toward death – we fear it so we deny it which exacerbates the fear.

My thought is if we move back a step and embrace death as a process, a gradual movement toward a predictable end, we might clear the fog of fear enough to have some useful thoughts and conversations.

I come to this as I prepare to market my book on caregiving for a spouse with dementia. Because there is no cure for dementia, accepting the diagnosis is accepting that the up-coming journey ends in death. Once you swallow that reality, and digest it (admittedly an ongoing process as the disease is a long and winding road of a thousand little deaths), you can hunker into managing the trip, even enjoying it.

The fear that Sally Chivers references, as relates to dementia, is that we as a society have decided that death by dementia is a horrible death. It's the end that people most assuredly don't want. It's horrible because it is long and attenuated, not the tidy wake-up-dead that we idealize. It's horrible because the mind goes before the body, and we believe that we are what we think (thank you, Descartes, 'I think, therefore I am' guy who did his share in separating us from the natural world), and therefore we disappear or become something other than ourselves before our body allows us to depart this mortal coil. It's horrible because being a non-person makes us vulnerable (if we're the one with dementia) or terribly responsible (if we're the care partner).

But if a culture that can entertain the notion that some who depart this world pass through Pearly Gates and become winged creatures making song, surely we can imagine a new and lovable persona earlier in the process.

My hypothesis based on limited evidence is that aging is the other side of the hill of life, and as we slip down the slope, we become variations of what we were as we clambered up the hill. We become childlike, in the sense of constrained cognition – can't think like we used to – and also in terms of increasing dependence.

Childhood is a lovely stage of life (if we are fortunate enough to be safely dependent). It is a time of wonder and joy and discovery and becoming what we are. If we weren't so afraid of death and the road to death, perhaps we could create the conditions under which the end of the life cycle has its own loveliness. We'd need to ensure that we could offer safe dependency, assurance that essential body, mind and spirit needs are met, so that both the person with dementia and the care partner are free to fully experience this stage of life.

We could do that. Let's put fear of death in its place and give it a try.

points of view

Rebel without a clue

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

IF YOU notice me walking around town with a swagger in my step and a ball cap that seems to be riding about a half inch too tall, don't jump to conclusions. I have not been shoplifting pita bread.

No, what you are seeing is the emergence of a trend that I am about to unleash upon the world. I call it the lowhawk.

That's right, I'm now sporting an age-appropriate mohawk-inspired hair style. And, believe me, it's got the town buzzing.

Just the other day, I was in the grocery store checkout line and the cashier, who was probably in her late teens, looked at me, sighed, and said, "Do you want to buy a shopping bag for all these items?"

For those of you too old to remember, that's teen-talk, for "Wow! That's the coolest hairstyle I have ever seen, man! It's really groovy!"

I had a similar incident on the street when I made a passing remark to a fellow about how I loved this November weather we've been having. That fellow replied, "Give your head a shake!"

Presumably, he wanted to see how my lowhawk stood up to the rigours of day-to-day activity.

Between you and me, all this attention is embarrassing.

Right now, those still reading are probably asking, "What's a lowhawk?"

Well, it's like a mohawk but much shorter.

You might recall, back in the day, punk rockers wore mohawks, which was a narrow strip of hair atop their otherwise shaved heads that was brightly coloured and six to ten inches tall. When you saw a person wearing a mohawk you knew they were either rebellious, or had stupidly mentioned to their barber mid-haircut that they forgot their wallet at home.

The average mohawk wearer was using the hairstyle to snub societal conventions or, in the case of shorter people, to appear taller so they could get on those stupid carnival rides.

Fast forward to the lowhawk. Not to brag, but I invented this myself.

It began when Jenn was cutting my hair. She had just finished pretending to lop off my bangs when I said, "Leave the hair on top alone."

Jenn, who is not a professional barber and therefore is only so-so on hair locations and barbering terminology, replied with, "What hair?"

Fast forward again! This time to six months later.

Now, as you will probably notice next time we meet, there is a strip of hair atop my head that stands proudly a full quarter-inch above the other two hairs on my head.

That's right. I'm a rebel.

My lowhawk is a clear signal to society that I will not be a conformist – and I invite everyone to join me.

As a 63-year-old non-conformist, I will rebel against all the things that are expected of an almost retirement-aged man. That's right, I will not wear socks and sandals (in winter at least).

That's it for now. Honestly, I don't want to be too hasty about this rebellious phase I'm entering. But, as time and my lowhawk progresses, I fully expect to become an even greater threat to the conventional norms. Heck, I can foresee the day when I will not mow the lawn for almost two weeks.

But here's the thing. I'm not looking to start a movement. I'm just looking to snub societal conventions in a very minor way.

Also, does anyone know when the next carnival is coming to town?

pic *of the* **past**

Dr. Agnes Jamieson, the namesake for the art gallery in Minden, poses with a friendly dog. Dr. Jamieson was the first female coroner in Ontario, after arriving in Minden in Dec., 1939. In a famous quote regarding Dr. Jamieson, one local shared: "The lady doc' is only chin high to a rail fence, but she's all wool and a yard wide, and is okay by us – she is more of a man, for all her skirts, than many a guy we know." /FILE

A quiet morning, a gentle intention

Tales from the great Green meadow

Lynda Shadbolt

THIS ARTICLE is brought to you by a quiet Sunday morning - fresh air, soft snowflakes drifting down, chickadees calling from the woods, and a gentle breeze moving through the trees along the trail. And, of course, by our beautiful golden retriever, Billie Rose.

Every morning, Jim and I pull on our dog-walking clothes, add our bright orange hats and vests for this time of year, and head out the door. It's how we choose to begin each day. Our intention is simple: to move our bodies, breathe fresh air, and care for our dog. But as the years go by, I've realized that these small rituals nourish far more than our muscles and lungs. They support our minds, our spirits, and that quiet inner light that needs tending just as much as anything else in our lives.

We all need habits that remind us we belong - to nature, to one another, and to the great, unfolding story of life. What nourishes each of us may look different, but the need itself is universal. When we do things that connect us to our essence - our magical, spirited selves - something inside brightens.

I've noticed that when my "to-do" list grows too long, I stop feeling that magic. If I spend too many hours on my phone or computer, I start to feel weighed down, tired, even a little worn out. It's easy, especially as responsibilities grow and the world becomes noisier, to drift away from the simple act of being present.

But when I pause - when I give myself even a moment of quiet - I reconnect with the energy that inspires me to be who I want to be: a caregiver, a teacher, a mother, a wife, a friend. A small force for goodness in whatever ways I can be. Creating a life that nourishes us takes intention, but the reward is a steadier, kinder way of moving through the world.

Last weekend, I attended the Haliburton International Film Festival at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion - now in its seventeenth year. The theme was Elbows Up, Chins Up, Rise Up, and the films came from Germany, France, Italy, a small village in Macedonia, and the United Kingdom. Each story showed people stepping up for one another, often in difficult and uncertain circumstances. It was a comforting reminder that even in a world facing so many challenges, there are countless individuals choosing compassion over fear, generosity over greed.

This week, I also had the pleasure of speaking at the Eagle Lake Women's Association. For nearly ninety years, these remarkable women have supported their community with steadfast kindness. They focus on the hopeful. The good. Their belief in the power of generosity has never wavered. And perhaps that is where everything begins - with intention. With a desire to stay connected to the quiet magic around us and within us. When we choose to notice the small beauties of a morning walk, or the kindness in a community, we rise up in our own gentle way. And from that place, goodness has room to grow.

Vigil honouring the victims of the École Polytechnique Massacre

The CFUW Haliburton Highlands would like to invite the community to come together for a special vigil to remember the 14 young women whose lives were taken during the 1989 École Polytechnique Massacre in Montreal.

The gathering will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Haliburton Highlands Museum parking lot, where participants will walk together into the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. The vigil will start at 10:45 a.m., and include the reading of the women's names, a moment of silence, and a song of remembrance. Attendees will be invited to tie ribbons on a tree as a symbol of hope and solidarity.

This annual event is a time for the community to stand united against gender-based violence, reflect on its ongoing impact, and honour those whose lives were lost or changed forever. It is held as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, observed globally from Nov. 25 to Dec. 10, and on Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Gender-based violence continues to deeply affect Indigenous women and girls, 2SLGBTQIA+ and non-binary individuals, women with disabilities, youth, newcomers, and those in rural and remote communities.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us in standing together for a safer, more compassionate future.

Event Details

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025

Assembly: Haliburton Highlands Museum Parking Lot, 10:30 a.m.

Vigil begins at 10:45 (Haliburton Sculpture Forest)

For more information: cfuwhh@gmail.com.

Submitted

Paving the path to climate hell – Ontario's high cost energy plan

Environment Haliburton (EH!), is sponsoring a virtual presentation by David Robertson of Seniors for Climate Action Now (SCAN!) on Tuesday Nov. 20, 2025 at 7 p.m. entitled "Paving the Path to Climate Hell: Ontario's High Cost Energy Plan"

David Robertson, a former researcher and senior staffer with Unifor is the author of a number of highly acclaimed critical analyses of both federal and provincial government energy and climate plans. His June 2025 Canadian Dimension article entitled "Ontario's Costly Nuclear Folly" (canadiandimension.com/articles/view/ontarios-costly-nuclear-folly) exposed just how costly a massive expansion of nuclear power will be for Ontarians.

"The Ontario government plans to spend an inordinate amount of money to support a nuclear industry whose reactors will, in all likelihood, be stranded assets well before the end of their useful life. Now and in the years ahead we will be paying electricity bills that are unnecessarily high. And then our children and their children will be forced to pay off the next generation of stranded nuclear debt."

This zoom event is open to everyone interested in the impact of the Ontario government's massive expansion of nuclear power. A question and answer period will follow Mr. Robertson's presentation.

Registration is required and can be accomplished easily and quickly by going to the Environment Haliburton (EH!) website at www.environmenthaliburton.org.

For further information contact: Susan Hay, President, Environment Haliburton (EH!) Telephone: 705-457-9239, Email: environmenthaliburton705@gmail.com

Submitted

Fast Lane Monday afternoon bowling league

Top Bowling Scores Nov. 10

Women

High Single
Cathy Snell 244
High Single with Handicap
Shelley Makela 282
High Triple
Cathy Snell 634
High Triple with Handicap
Shelley Makela 742

Men

High Single
Jeff Adams 199
High Single with Handicap
Jeff Adams 251
High Triple
Robert Terro 516
High Triple with Handicap
Dale Freitag 662

New bowlers are welcome to join!

Tim Hortons holiday smile cookies spread cheer in county

From Nov. 17 to 23, Tim Hortons guests in Haliburton and Minden can help make the season brighter for local families by purchasing a Holiday Smile Cookie. During the week-long campaign, 100 per cent of proceeds from each Holiday Smile Cookie sold will be shared between the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank, the Minden Community Food Centre, and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.

The Holiday Smile Cookie campaign is a cherished annual tradition that invites Canadians to give back to their communities while enjoying a festive treat. Each hand-decorated cookie sold at participating Tim Hortons restaurants helps support local charities and youth development programs. Many of the Holiday Smile Cookies are decorated by local leaders in our community, including builders and contractors, healthcare, government, media, non-profit organizations, real estate, sports, and more.

"We're proud to once again be part of a campaign that brings our communities together for such meaningful causes," said Mike Garland, owner of Tim Hortons Haliburton and Minden. "Every Holiday Smile Cookie purchased makes a real difference, helping local families put food on the table. It's one small act that creates a big impact."

For the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank, community support is vital year-round, especially as the holiday season approaches. "We're so grateful to be included in this campaign," said Louise Ewing, Board Chair of the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank. "Money raised during the Holiday Smile Cookie campaign helps local families facing food insecurity. It's heartwarming to see neighbours supporting neighbours."

The Minden Community Food Centre echoes that sentiment. "The need in our community continues to grow, and partnerships like this help us meet it head-on," said Jim Wilson, Board Chair of the Minden Community Food Centre. "We're thankful to Tim Hortons and to every customer who buys a Holiday Smile Cookie this November, you're making a real difference."

You can purchase Holiday Smile Cookies at Tim Hortons restaurants in Haliburton and Minden from Nov. 17 to 23, or if you'd like to place a bulk order for Holiday Smile Cookies, visit https://tally.so/r/nPrKNV

Every cookie purchased helps spread smiles across the community.

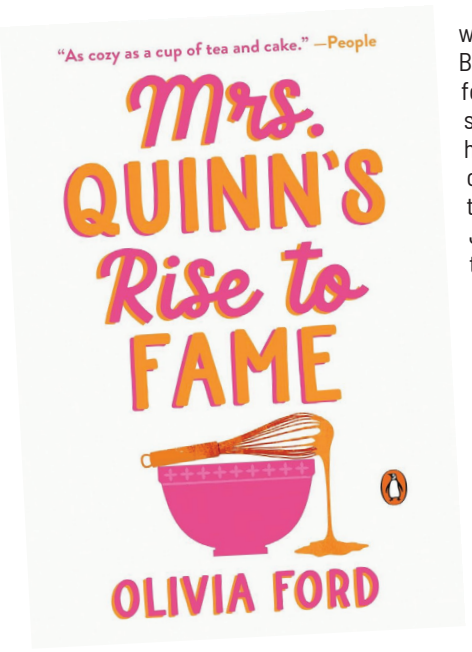
Submitted

Minden Memories

A turn-of-the-century photo of Minden's Main Street shows a slower pace of life, with a wooden trestle bridge crossing the Gull River. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



After fifty-nine years of marriage, Jenny's world has begun to shrink as her husband Bernard's health declines and her friends focus on their grandchildren - something she never had. Longing for something of her own, she secretly applies to compete on the TV show *Britain Bakes*. Immersed in the whirlwind of cameras and confections, Jenny rediscovers her independence, but the stress of competition stirs memories she's long tried to forget. Each bake recalls a moment from her past, including a secret she's hidden from Bernard for decades. As her star rises, Jenny must confront the truth she's buried - and decide whether revealing it will destroy the life she's built or finally set her free.

Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame by Olivia Ford is available at the Haliburton County Public Library as a book or Book Club Set. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

HALIBURTON VILLAGE SANTA CLAUS PARADE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, 2025 ~ 6:30pm

A Canadian Christmas

True North Strong & Free

BANDS HORSES MARCHER BRIGHT LIGHTS

To enter contact
Jim Frost at 705 457-4031 or
jandmfrost@outlook.com

At the Town Tree, there will be caroling at 5:30 pm and Tree Lighting at 6:00 pm

Canada Postal workers will be on the parade route collecting letters for Santa.

REMEMBER - NO PARKING ON HIGHLAND STREET

The parade is proudly brought to you by the Downtown Haliburton Business Association and the Haliburton & District Lions Club

A horse-drawn carriage brings kids to Moorelands Camp in Dorset in the early 1900s. /photos submitted

Moorelands campers explore a trail around Kawagama Lake in 1975.

Moorelands Camp changes lives for the better

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Deep in the woods of Dorset, there is a magical place.

A place where kids can be kids, where the pressures of the real world can be shed, and the joy of community connections and lifelong friendships are given a space to flourish.

And it's been changing lives for over 100 years.

Moorelands Camp first formed in 1917, and moved to Kawagama Lake in 1972. This leadership camp provides a safe space for kids to step out of their comfort zones, and unplug from their digital devices to reconnect with nature. Through interactive activities that include kayaking, high ropes, archery, sports and much more, the key leadership elements of developing responsibility, decision making and critical thinking are woven throughout each activity.

"And our vision mission has never changed," said Colette Halferty, the director of development and communications for the camp. "Serving low income families from low income communities. Those who wouldn't be able to go to camp."

Based out of Toronto, Moorelands Kids started in 1912. The idea of the program is to work with under-privileged youth, to develop leadership skills and tangible, hand-on life experiences that would support them in the real world. "By design, our intentional programming meets kids where they are at," said Halferty, "and empowers them to recognize their own potential to grow and develop life and leadership skills that can strengthen their emotional and social well-being."

The programming is offered year-round, and designed to build and develop skills that are not traditionally taught in schools. "We invest in kids by way of teaching attributes and soft skills that are transformative and life-changing in terms of their sense of self-respect, relationships built on mutuality and respect of others, and team building," noted Halferty.

Moorelands Camp is an expansion of these teaching methods, but in a different place, with different people. With the camp only accessible via boat, kids start their journey to Moorelands already outside of their comfort zone. "It's a bit of a magical experience," chuckled Halferty. Currently, the camp has the capacity to support 600 campers over the course of the summer, with a dedication to keeping the camper to staff ratio at two campers per counsellor; ensuring safety and support is top of mind.

Halferty noted that it is a device-free camp. "It's all about real face time," she said. "There is a commonality to our campers. Everyone is coming together under very similar challenges."

Historically, the camp has attracted kids from city centres, but the staff at Moorelands are aware of the poverty levels within Haliburton County, and hope to welcome more local kids into their accessible programming. "Poverty is on the move," said Halferty. "And we want to create safe, fun places where kids can really thrive."

The programs at Moorelands Camp are designed for ages eight to 16, with many campers returning year over year. Halftery referenced one camper who came many summers in a row; gradually building her confidence and drive each time. By the time she aged out from the camp program, she had her path in life paved forward, and followed through with a career in nursing, before returning to the camp to work as an on-site nurse. "It was a very full circle moment," said Halftery.

Other campers expressed similar sentiments. "My favourite part of camp is definitely getting to meet new people," said Mariah, a camper in 2023. "After my first year at camp, I was still kind of nervous, but it is a good feeling that I get to make new friends every summer. We learn leadership skills, like taking responsibility for ourselves. We learn to reflect on our actions and how they affect others."

While Halftery can't pinpoint the exact number of campers who have been to Moorelands over the years, she knows that the programming has helped "hundreds of thousands of kids." The camp does not receive any government funding for their programming, and is entirely supported through fundraising initiatives. With the model in mind that every kid deserves to be a kid at camp, the organization follows a subsidized scale, which indicates where campers fall into for their costs. "We want to meet kids where they are," said Halfterty. "So that way, they're not going against another stigma. We do everything we can to make it so that they can be a kid."

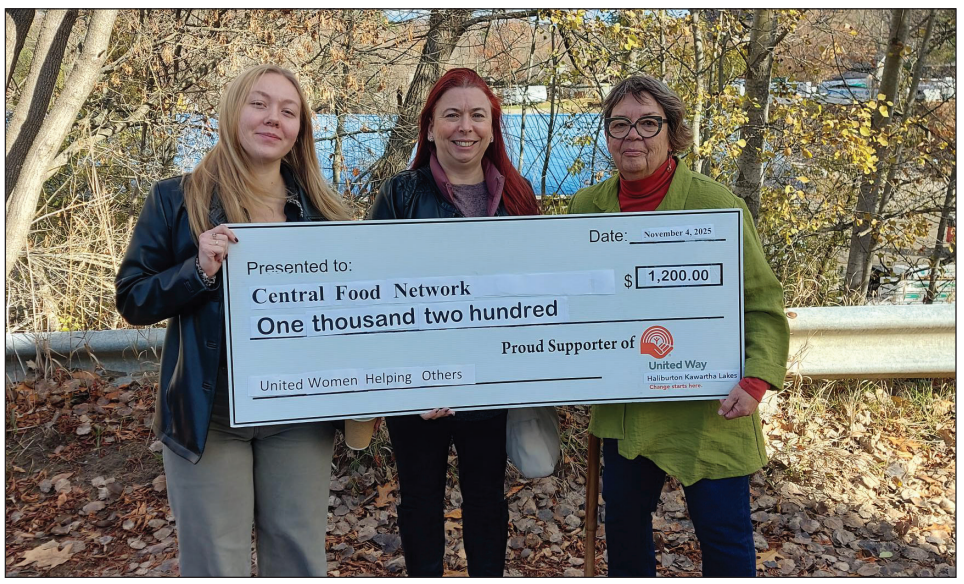
Information on Moorelands Kids programs as well as Moorelands Camp can be found at www.moorelands.ca, as well as options for donations. "Kids are our future," said Halfterty. "We want to give them all the tools they need to thrive."

For over 100 years, Moorelands has welcomed kids to explore camp in Dorset.

Moorelands offers traditional camp experiences, such as swimming, boating, archery, and high ropes, as well as leadership training and foundational skills.

Magical markets

Despite snowy weather, Abbey Gardens saw plenty of people at their Holiday Market on Saturday evening. This is the first year the market is up and running again, after taking a hiatus last Christmas. Pictured, artists stand next to their displays set up in the on-site tent at Abbey Gardens. /TIM YANO staff photographer



Helping hands

The Central Food Network is grateful to have received a $1,200 grant from the United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes' United Women Helping Others initiative in support of their free income tax clinics. This gift will help ensure that residents across Haliburton County can continue to access free, confidential tax filing assistance through Central Food Network's Volunteer Income Tax Program. Each year, trained volunteers help hundreds of local individuals and families with modest incomes file their taxes accurately and on time ensuring they receive the benefits, credits and refunds they are entitled to. /submitted

JOLLY JOG
FREE FAMILY WALK & RUN
Sunday, November 23 @ 11 AM
Haliburton Highlands Museum
66 Museum Road, Haliburton
Wear your favourite, festive holiday gear!
Choose from three routes ranging from 1.5 km to 5 km.
Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.
Supporting Snowflake Meadows Rescue
Donations are appreciated but not required.
Cash donations | Dog and cat food (Acana, Advantage, Advantix) | Heavy chew bones | Timothy hay for rabbits and tortoises | Gift cards to local pet stores (Pet Valu, Paulmac's, Pet Tyme, Animal Krackers, Minden Mercantile)
Municipality of Dysart et al
Haliburton Highland Museum
www.dysartetal.ca/jollyjog

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Cinderella Eco Dealer
TIRED OF YOUR COMPOSTING TOILET?
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incineratingtoilets.ca
info@incineratingtoilets.ca

Be the light...

SIRCH community services

Gifts *from the* Heart

Fundraising Campaign 2025

Our Mission:

Solving real problems. Strengthening rural communities. Creating connection and resilience - together

Our Vision:

Thriving communities where everyone feels connected and supported.

A Message from SIRCH Executive Director...

No one should be hungry here. Not in a community like ours.

Yet across Haliburton County and North Hastings, hunger is now a daily reality.
A parent quietly skipping meals so their children can eat.
A senior choosing between groceries and heat.
A young person living rough with no idea where food will come from next.

Food insecurity in Canada has surged almost **40% in two years** — and rural communities are feeling it most. Higher food prices. Long distances to the nearest store. Limited transportation. The struggle adds up quickly.

For SIRCH Community Services, responding to hunger has become a core part of our mission. And this community has proven what's possible when we take care of one another.
Because of your support last year, more than 22,000 nutritious meals and thousands of hearty soups were prepared and provided free of charge. Fourteen partner organizations helped distribute meals and ensure that those who were ill, single parenting, isolated, unhoused, or living with anxiety and depression were able not only to eat, but feel cared for.

One meal recipient told us:
"It was the first real meal I'd had in days. It gave me hope."

Behind every meal is a community effort: Donated fresh food from growers and grocers; Volunteers chopping, stirring, packaging with care; Donors giving so no one is left behind.

But hunger is growing. And so must our response.
As we plan for 2026, we're working to:

- Access more fresh food
- Expand preservation methods that don't rely on hydro
- Offer more free cooking and food-literacy programs
- Reach neighbours still falling through the cracks

Studies show **every $1 invested in community meals can return up to $4.40 in social value -** better health, less stress, and stronger community resilience. You helped make that impact possible here through your donations.

Now, we're asking for your support again. Be the reason someone eats tonight.

Donate at sirch.on.ca/donate

Gena Robertson
Founding Executive Director,
SIRCH Community Services

SIRCH community services

Be the light...

Because of your generosity, last year you helped us provide 22,000 FREE, nutritious meals.

That NEED is growing!

SIRCH Meals are funded entirely by your donations!

Gifts *from the* Heart

Fundraising Campaign 2025

Please give what you can

www.sirch.on.ca/donate

Kruger provides update on master fire plan

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Minden Hills' fire master plan is moving along well. Don Kruger, fire chief for Minden Hills reported their progress as part of their quarterly update.

"The major takeaway is that we are meeting all of our legislative requirements," said Kruger. "There are a couple of nice-to-haves."

Kruger noted that a training centre for volunteer fire fighters would be beneficial to their services.

One of the recommendations is for council to consider assisting with paying for DZ licenses for more firefighters to be able to drive the truck.

"That is a very cost prohibitive item. It is quite expensive," said Kruger. "To get 24 people their driver's licenses is very expensive. We are working as best we can with the firefighters to alleviate the costs."

Councillor Tammy McKelvey asked what cost is associated with getting the licensing. Kruger said that the cost includes the medical form, initial written test for learner's permit, any training required, and cost for the actual DZ license itself.

Kruger says that all small communities have issues with acquiring driver's licenses for their volunteer firefighters. Some municipalities across Ontario use part of their training budget to cover the costs, while other places force the firefighters to eat the costs themselves.

Minden Hills' fire department has two apparatuses that require a DZ license to drive.

"In your opinion, does everyone need a DZ license," asked Councillor Bob Sisson.

"I would say no, not everyone needs the DZ license," replied Kruger. "The more we have that are licensed, the better equipped we are to respond to use those apparatuses when needed."

Kruger says that six members of the firefighting force have their DZ license. He hopes to double that number in the future.

"One of the items on here is that we should develop ways of publicly acknowledging the local employers that allow our volunteer firefighters to leave their job and perform emergency responses," said McKelvey. "I think that should be really high on the priority list. If these businesses didn't do that, we would be in a lot of trouble."

The fire chief says that they are looking at ways of recognizing local employers, but have not decided the best option yet.

Kruger also mentioned that he has corresponded with Bracebridge's fire chief to work towards a Mutual Aid Agreement. He says that their fire chief will be bringing the matter to their council meeting soon.

Food Centre seeking extra donations leading up to holidays

from page 1

canned vegetables, meat, eggs, milk, and bread are all essentials that they keep on hand.

Once per week, the food centre cooks meals like soups and chilis and freezes them in large batches. Frozen meals are a really good way to get a meal to a senior that they can heat up and enjoy, without needing to worry about cooking. For some, cooking food is impossible.

The Community Food Centre receives no government funding. As a member of Feed Ontario, the food centre does have access to some corporate donations and deals to purchase meat. However, the food centre relies almost entirely on donations from the generous public.

There are many ways to support the food centre.

First and foremost, the food centre is capable of using money donations most effectively. They have access to cheaper food sources that can extend the dollar. As the

Form left, Minden Community Food Centre's volunteers Jane Adam, Neil Lewis, and Winn Taylor pose for a photo in front of their pantry. /submitted

volunteers on the front line supporting our community, they know what is needed the most.

The second way to support the centre is to check your pantries. When considering if a food item is donatable, check those labels. If a non-perishable food item is expired, it may be unsafe for someone to consume. However, some products with best before dates like rice, pasta, and honey are likely acceptable to donate or consume within a fair time period. All food donations must be unopened before donating. All items need to be in their original retail packaging. Some items you may consider donating include canned fruits and vegetables, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, and condiments.

Personal items and women's hygiene products are also greatly needed and accepted.

The third way to support the food centre is through shopping at Coneybeare's Butcher Shop. When purchasing meat, consider adding a pound of ground beef to be donated. Coneybeare's regularly donates ground beef to the food centre to provide essential protein in client's diets.

The food centre can collect monetary donations during their regular operating hours or through their money and cheque drop off points. The donations are collected regularly.

Munroe says that despite 11 years since their name change, they still have some issues with cheques being deposited for them. They asked that cheques are made out to the Minden Community Food Centre and not their former name.

Donations can also be made directly to the food centre through Canadahelps.org and as a registered charity, tax receipts can be available from donating.

When someone visits, they need to confirm their address with their drivers license and birth certificates for anyone living in the household. If clients do not have a driver's license, a utility bill showing your address is accepted.

A few months ago, the centre switched to a shopping model for clients. Munroe says that this model has streamlined the process of getting people food. Clients are guided by a food centre team member and shown what is available, while discussing recipes and tips on cooking with their ingredients.

"Economically for us, it's great," said Munroe. "I think that the clients love it. They are 100 per cent on board."

The shopping model is faster, more personable, and results in less food waste.

Around November and December, the food centre sees the fewest donations, despite the surging demand for food over the holidays. This holiday season, consider donating towards a family's Christmas or a lonely senior looking for a hot meal.

In the spirit of the holidays, the food centre is also now accepting toy donations to go alongside their Christmas hampers.

Last year, the centre donated around 200 Christmas dinners to the community.

The food centre will be accepting calls to register for a Christmas hamper from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5. The number to call and book your hamper is 705-286-6838.

Toys and hampers will be given away on Dec. 19. A breakfast will also be served on Christmas Day.

The Minden Community Food Centre is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. They are open late on the first and third Wednesdays of the month until 4:30 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer with the community food centre, volunteers are always appreciated.

Right now, they are particularly keen on volunteers wanting to help cook in their kitchen. Come by the food centre to chat with a team member about how you can help feed the hungry in our community.

Township of Algonquin Highlands

PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant: Dawson
Lot 21, Concession 4, Maple Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 21, Concession 4, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 21, Concession 4, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 21, Concession 4, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11165.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the 1**1th day of December, 2025** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: November 25, 2025.

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE
SPECIAL MEETING

PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES
2026 BUDGET

TAKE NOTICE that there will be a Special Meeting of Council on Thursday, November 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss projects and priorities for the 2026 Budget.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands. Members of the Public may also observe the Council meeting by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found on the meeting Agenda at https://algonquinhighlands.civicweb.net/portal

Dated this 18th day of November 2025.

Dawn Newhook, Clerk/Deputy CAO
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379 ext. 333
dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

Bailey Barn may be put out to pasture

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The fate of the old Bailey Barn, located at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, is in council's hands.

Longtime residents remember the Bailey Barn being located at Deep Bay and Murdoch Road. Moved in 1999, the structure recalls the history of settlers moving to explore agriculture in the late 19th century. These settlers fought against tree and stone in an effort to provide for themselves and their families.

Some people even remember animals living around the barn at the cultural centre. Time changes everything.

The barn remains closed to visitors who can look at the building from the outside. MH staff conduct inspections of the building in the spring and fall.

Readers may know that the Bailey Barn has been on the council's radar for many years, slowly shifting off of its pillars.

The Bailey Barn has been closed to the public for at least four years without a clear destiny.

MH council voted on the structure's fate at the past council meeting, held on Nov. 13.

At a prior council meeting, Tatham Engineering Limited was hired to conduct a feasibility study for the building and proposed three options for the structure.

The first option is to replace the foundation. With a price tag of $120,000, the project would include the disassembly, construction, and reconstruction of the structure, with a plan to replace any deteriorated logs.

The second option is demolition, with the potential to sell remaining logs.

The third option is for staff to research grants and funding available for a project to restore the structure. No grant or funding can be certain at this time.

Candace McGuigan represented staff seeking council's direction towards the Bailey Barn.

"I have been a bit of an advocate for the Bailey Barn as soon as I started council," said Councillor Shirley Johannessen. "That being said, I believe we need to put this to bed at some point. I would like to look at the grants if possible. If that doesn't fall through, I would still like to keep some of the wood."

Johannessen said that if the barn must be demolished, that a bench or some other commemorative object could be made to acknowledge its presence at the cultural centre.

Councillor Pam Sayne added that the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation is also investigating funding options.

Sayne says that she hopes that the discussion towards the Bailey Barn's fate does not take more than a year to resolve and to give staff a chance before rushing to any conclusions.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell asked the engineering company how long they thought that the structure would last before council could secure funding.

McGuigan said that they did not specify. If the structure is renovated and stays up, it would need to be checked out by engineers every few years to ensure its structural stability..

"It's there, it's viewable, it's not a danger," said Mayor Bob Carter. "If there is a grant somewhere, somehow to do this, then by all means. We can't afford the $120,000."

Council agreed on proceeding with the third option, in allowing staff to investigate grant opportunities for the structure.

While the Bailey Barn will remain standing at the Cultural Centre, the fate of the barn remains uncertain without assured funding.

Highlights from the Mayor's report

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Budgeting, Remembrance Day, and holiday cheer filled Mayor Bob Carter's report this past council meeting. Here are some highlights:

Budget

This year will be a struggle for Mayor Bob Carter and staff to get the budget ready for next year. The biggest vacuum from the coffers is the price of OPP in the municipality. Fortunately, the OPP has tapped the breaks on price increases.

"For now and into the future they will limit it to 11 per cent per year," said Carter. "Which is almost $2 million per year. Eleven per cent is a lot of money."

Carter says that funding from the government towards paying for policing services has not increased enough to cover their costs.

"It's going to be a challenging year for budgets," said Carter. "Everybody is working diligently to try and control this to some reasonable levels."

Carter noted that prices of infrastructure, housing, and child care have all gone up in recent years.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Despite the freezing cold, Minden remembers its veterans.

"We had a very moving ceremony this week downtown," said Carter. "It was well attended and the weather always seems to throw an additional challenge to us."

Carter says that everyone did their duty to make this year's Remembrance Day ceremony successful. In particular, he thanked the honour guard.

"I want to especially note the cadets who did a fantastic job," said Carter.

Holiday events

Carter discussed the tree lighting ceremony, Santa Claus Parade, and Christmas in the Village event that happened this past weekend.

"I have confirmation from Santa Claus that he will be present and that is terrific news," said Carter. "It's always good for him to take the time out to come to Minden."

Carter encouraged everyone to take advantage of what is happening in Minden this holiday season.

Holiday magic

Left, Emma gets her face painted while her brother Jack watches from behind at Minden's annual Christmas in the Village, following the Santa Claus Parade through town. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre set up a candy shoppe and face painting station at their Christmas in the Village event, as well as a station set up to send letters directly to the North Pole. Events were attended by kids of all ages, ringing in the holiday season. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Mary Trepanier kept the wood stove warm in the Bowron House.

Santa comes to Minden

Santa Claus finished the Minden Santa Claus Parade held on Saturday Nov. 15. While the wind was brisk, people filled the streets to welcome in the holiday season. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

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Shindig hoping to help with heating costs

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Amy Brohm and Victoria Bingham dressed up for last year's Shindig, and will be back to host with humour once again on Nov. 22 in Haliburton. /FILE

With winter coming early this year, the need for accessible heat sources is higher than ever.

That's why Sue Waite, the executive director for Fuel for Warmth, believes this is the time to help those in need.

"It gets busier every year," said Waite. "We used a lot of our reserves last year, so we're just trying to build that back up again."

Fuel for Warmth is dedicated to ensuring no one faces the harsh cold without warmth; providing emergency heating assistance to those in need. The organization was started in 2009, when former Minden Community Food Centre Joanne Barnes learned of the many families living in the cold. "People would come in and tell her that their kids were wearing snowsuits in the house, or that seniors were bundled under blankets with their dogs to try to stay warm," said Waite. "Since then, we have become incorporated, and it's just gotten bigger and bigger every year."

Two years ago, the organization received 60 calls for heat support and delivered 30 loads of wood. Last year, they received 132 calls for support, and delivered 49 loads of wood. This year, even before the harsh snap of winter has really taken hold, they have already received 15 calls and given eight deliveries of wood.

"And it gets busier in January," said Waite, worried about what the future will hold.

The primary fundraiser for Fuel for Warmth is the annual Highlands Christmas Shindig. "Everything goes right back to the bank," noted Waite. The Shindig has changed in formats over the years, and was traditionally held at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion before it was moved to the Haliburton Legion to accommodate capacity and tech requirements.

This year, the performing musical feature will be Jeff Moulton and his band, with Victoria Bingham and Amy Brohm as the hosts; a nod to the original Shindig days, where different characters were adopted and performed.

The event will also include a silent auction, with items donated by local businesses and offerings. Waite noted that the email address has changed, and encourages those interested in e-transfer donations to add fuelforwarmthinc@gmail.com.

The annual Shindig is set for Nov. 22 at the Haliburton Legion. Doors open at 6:30 with music starting at 7:30 p.m. The show will also be live streamed, with donations accepted online.

If you are seeking support for heating your home or are interested in supporting the cause, visit www.fuelforwarmth.com. An application form is available online if you need assistance with heat support this winter.

"The community in Haliburton County is just so generous," said Waite of the successes over the years from the Shindig. "This is something that really helps their neighbours."

Arts Council launches next chapter of community presence

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands hosted Art in Focus exhibition opening on Nov. 13 at The Link, featuring the work of three photographers. /ADAM FRISK staff

The arts are for everyone.

That's the mindset of the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands (ACHH).

"At ACHH, we believe in the power of the arts to inspire, educate and bring people together," reads their website, in bold letters. "We are a strong voice for arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands, we drive creative development and bridge relationships that add to the vibrancy of the community."

But in these post-COVID-19 years, the arts was one of the biggest industries to take a hit financially. That's why the council dedicated themselves to an in-depth strategic plan, which solidified the presence of the arts in the community. "We wanted to make sure the arts stayed vibrant in the community," said Sharon Kennedy, a board member for ACHH. "So we have created an opportunity to donate. We decided this was going to help keep the focus on the arts in the community."

As of Nov. 1, ACHH has launched the Giving Campaign; an initiative to ensure a vibrant creative future for the county. "It was really well received," noted Kennedy, referencing the feedback they heard during the ACHH AGM last week when discussing the launch. "It's gratifying that people don't want to see this council go away."

With the Giving Campaign, the council invites anyone interested, including businesses and community members, to contribute to the arts world, in an effort to sustain the growing number of artists locally. "Donations will directly support local artists, public art projects, and accessible community programs that inspire people of all ages," reads the press release.

Kennedy noted that the one component that makes the ACHH unique from others across the province is the multi-faceted nature of the artists under their umbrella of support. With nearly 200 arts organizations and individuals involved with the council, they represent a plethora of disciplines, including visual, literary, and performing arts.

As the world evolves, as does the arts world, and Kennedy shared that they are seeing an increase in digital arts and photographers, as well. "Haliburton County has all of those disciplines and they are very active," she said. "The Arts Council works as an umbrella organization to keep that cohesion between them."

Being affiliated with the Arts Council has multiple benefits, including round table conversations, connections with like-minded individuals, and shared marketing offerings. "The county is so huge, and artists are spread throughout," said Kennedy. "We really, over the years, have brought publication under one roof."

The council offered a networking social at the Link last week, and featured three photographers: June Krisko, Gregg Thurlbeck, and Huw Morgan. This showcase is one example of how the ACHH uses its partnerships and community connections to celebrate the variety of artists who call our community home.

More information on the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands can be found on their website, at www.haliburtonarts.on.ca. There is a button on the site to donate to their Giving Campaign, as well as options to get involved with the organization.

A Festival of Lights

Harsha Manani and Jagdish Shrimali welcome guests at the start of Diwali celebration at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday night. /ADAM FRISK staff

Local dancer Yasmin Schoenke performs during the Diwali celebration at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday night.

Jagdish Shrimali, who played a key role in the organization of the event, dances during the Diwali celebration

Huskies Hockey

Despite stormy weather, the Haliburton County Huskies came out on top over St. Michael's on Saturday evening, with a big win of 8-1. The Huskies will not be playing locally again until Nov. 29, and have taken to the road for the coming weeks. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Long-term Care residents now benefit from "MealSuite" an innovative nutrition system that provides personalized care. **Thanks to community support, HHHS staff have more time to engage with residents.**

"One of the Best Investments You Could Make"

Don and Anne have deep roots in the Highlands – Don's great-grandmother built the Bonnie View, now a local landmark. But Don's cancer treatments became more intensive, the couple faced a challenge. The radiation was exhausting, and the long drives to appointments was becoming impossible.

Don had always been the driver, but with his health declining and Anne nervous to get behind the wheel again, they didn't know how they would manage.

That changed when they learned about **HHHS Community Support Services' medically necessary transportation program** during a seminar at their apartment complex.

"Once we spoke with the intake team, we learned we qualified for the subsidy," Anne says. "We had our first ride booked before the end of the meeting."

In September alone, Don took **seven trips to Peterborough** and one to **Oshawa** for treatment – each trip costing **$25** thanks to donor-supported subsidies.

"It's been really good," Don says. "It's taken the pressure off both of us, and now we're dropped right at the door, so I don't have to walk as far with my walker. We have marvelous volunteers, and this program means so much to people like us who want to stay independent."

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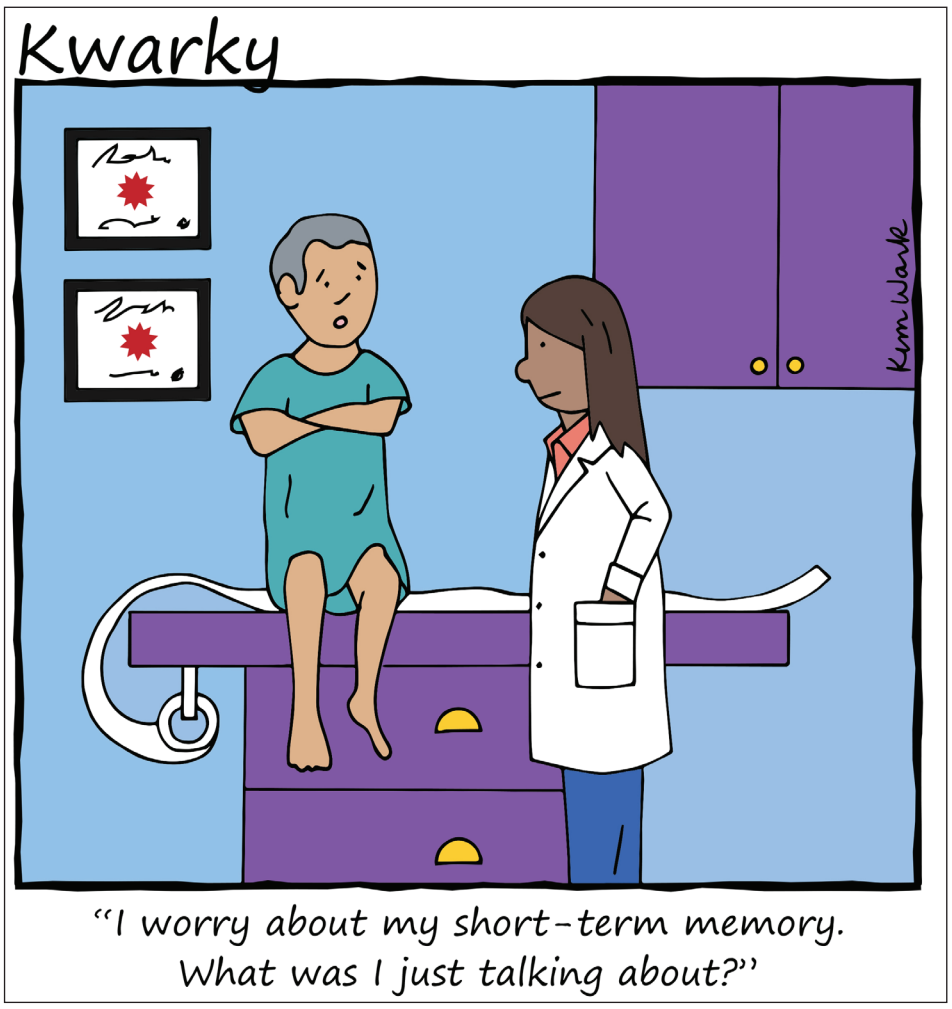

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	7		1	3				6
8	9	6		5			2	
	1			8	2	9		5
1				7	3		4	
	2		4	6	8			9
	5	4				8		
			9			2		
5		1		2	6			
9		2				5		4

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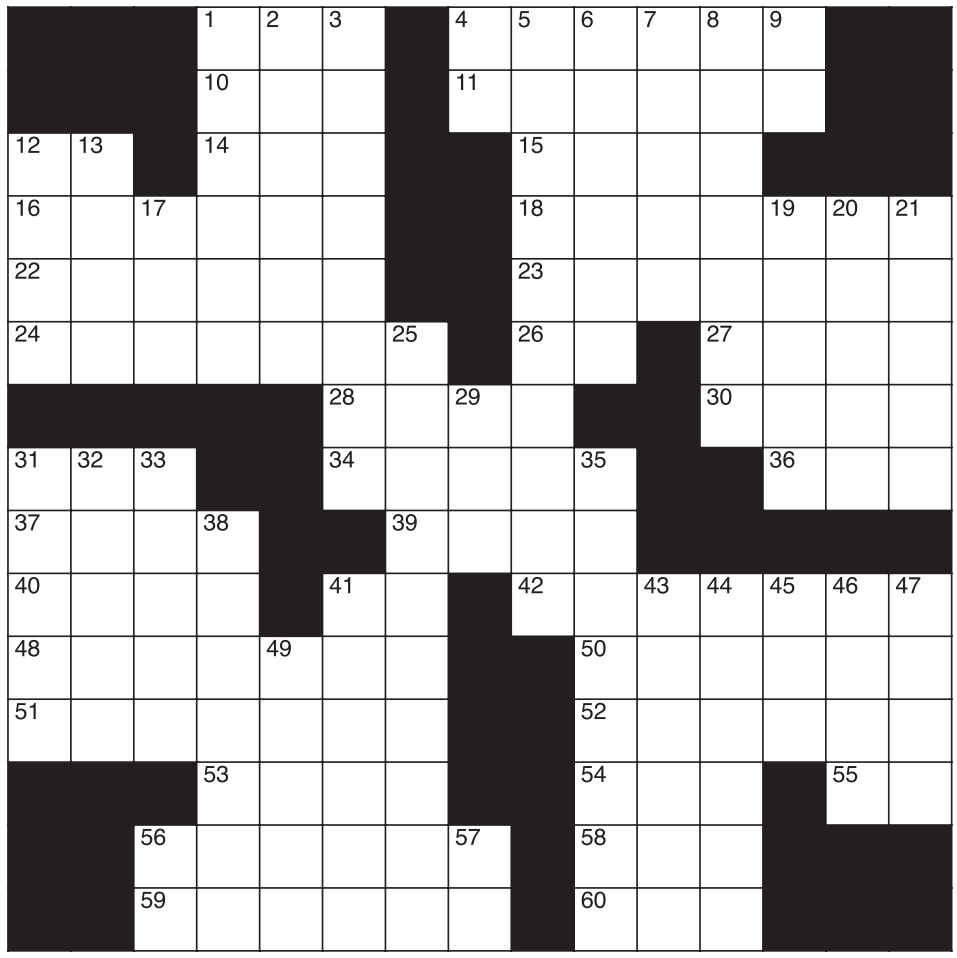
Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 25



CLUES ACROSS
1. Popular broadcast network
4. Train line
10. Go quickly
11. Straightforward
12. Canadian province
14. Swiss river
15. It can be straight or curved
16. Edit
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Gotten up
23. Sea vessel
24. Agents of one's demise
26. Not out
27. Something to scratch
28. A round water pot
30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit
31. Promotions
34. Masses of matter
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Nightstand item
39. The content of cognition
40. Arab ruler
41. Northern U.S. state
42. Chewed in small bites
48. Hawaiian island
50. More thin
51. Of one
52. Rigid bracelet or anklet
53. Barbary sheep
54. Not even
55. Atomic #106
56. Haggle
58. Boxing's GOAT
59. Division of a group into opposing factions
60. Vietnamese offensive

CLUES DOWN
1. Horse-drawn carriage
2. Prejudices
3. Peacefully
4. University athletic official
5. Soldiers
6. Large mollusk
7. Take out again
8. Sour or bitter in taste
9. Songwriter Tunstall
12. Husk of wheat
13. Flexible covering in some birds
17. Energy
19. Night monkey genus
20. Small nails
21. Colorless volatile liquid
25. In a way, changes integrity
29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal
31. Remember it
32. "Good Will Hunting" lead man
33. Pleasant facial expression
35. Sea vessel
38. Lacking poetic beauty
41. Tall, swift and slender dog
43. Sports personality Michelle
44. Robber
45. Liquefied natural gas
46. Snakelike fish
47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid
49. Crimean seaport
56. Bad grades
57. Popular S. Korean rapper

Answers on page 25

Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthy school news. The columns are completed in English and French, to honour both languages the students learn in.

By: Colton Ansley (Gr. 12), Beau Harnois (Gr. 12), and Jordyn Titus (Gr. 11)

This month has been full of activities at Hal High!

October saw the community hosting the Canadian Student Leadership Council. The CSLC is a student leadership conference hosted at Camp White Pine that brought in leadership students from schools all over the country.

Hal High students were there for a full week, attending workshops and presentations and acting as Camp Counsellors to peers from across Canada. Two of our students, Marisol Hall and Tavia Harris, shared their experiences powering through an intense schedule to get the most out of their time. They noted an especially powerful presentation from a marine who spoke about his life experience as well as a motivational speaker, Ian Tyson, who also presented to the entire school about the power of kindness following the conference.

The Red Hawks have had an exciting month for sports! This month a sport came back that hasn't been done in Hal High for over five years. Hockey is officially back this year with many participants excited and ready.

Volleyball is always a hit in Hal High and it was an exciting month with the boys team having multiple victories. The junior and senior boys' volleyball teams have wound down after an eventful and exciting season.

With the boys soccer team, although it didn't last long, they still had lots of fun. The basketball teams are always great at Hal High and this month the girls team made it even better by showing great teamwork to bring the team to victory.

We also had five runners who represented Hal High well at OFSAA: Violet Humphries, Erika Hoare, Annika Gervais, Alex Lee and Quinn Hamilton. Even the Leadership Class got in the sports spirit hosting a mini golf tournament throughout the halls.

Clubs were busy this month as well! Interact hosted its annual WE Scare Hunger initiative on Halloween, collecting non-perishable goods for the local food banks. This initiative kicked off a food drive being held at the High School for the month of November run by the Leadership Class.

The HHSS Drama Club has also been busy preparing for their upcoming production of, *Puffs; Or, Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* by Matt Cox. Performances will be coming up December 13 to 15, and the club can't wait to show the community this hilarious work.

Students from across the country came to Haliburton last month to participate in the Canadian Student Leadership Council. /submitted

The school got green this month with a garbage clean-up day hosted by the Leadership class, with Mrs. Klose's Grade 10 Math class winning the challenge by collecting an impressive amount of garbage.

This month the Red Hawks showed off their school spirit with plenty of fun activities organized by the Leadership Class. We started the month off with silly hat day where students showed up in their silliest hats, from sombreros to witch hats.

Next up was Country Vs Country Club day, with students either dressing as cowboys or in clothing ready for the country club (the cowboys won). Grade 9 day was about welcoming our newest Red Hawks with fun and games from Tug O' War to sitting in the rainbow parachute one last time.

As Halloween colour day got closer we had a Halloween colour day filling the school with Halloween colours, and finally we ended the month off with a Halloween dance and costume day, where the Halloween spirit was through the roof with all the student participation.

Overall October was an awesome month full of school spirit, fun, and laughter for the Red Hawks.

Hal High Monthly
Octobre

Par: Alexis Dacey (Gr. 11), Chloe Morrisette (Gr. 11), Isabella Valentini (Gr. 11)

Le mois dernier, HHSS était en effervescence alors que les élèves célébraient deux événements majeurs et le coup d'envoi des sports : la danse annuel d'Halloween, la très attendue Journée de la 9e et la remise des diplômes des sports scolaires comme le cross-country, le soccer, le basketball et le volleyball. Toutes ces activités ont réuni les élèves pour un mois de convivialité, de rires et de convivialité.

Le vendredi 10 octobre, les élèves de 3e du HHSS ont échangé leurs livres et leurs salles de classe pour profiter du grand air et s'amuser. Durant la deuxième moitié de la journée, ils ont participé à de nombreux jeux et activités manuelles, comme le cornhole, le tir à la corde et les courses d'obstacles. L'événement a été riche en rires et en divertissements.

Le 23 octobre, la cafétéria s'est transformée en une fête effrayante pour la danse d'Halloween, avec des décorations effrayantes, de délicieux plats et une playlist qui a fait danser les élèves toute la nuit. Les costumes allaient des vampires et sorcières classiques aux références astucieuses à la culture pop.Le cours de leadership du lycée a permis de récolter environ $700, qui pourront désormais être consacrés à d'autres activités scolaires.

"La participation a été incroyable", a déclaré Mme Carr. "C'était formidable de voir les élèves s'amuser et faire preuve d'autant de créativité."

Ce mois-ci a été exceptionnel pour les sports du Hal High. L'équipe de cross-country a d'excellentes performances aux championnats COSSA et plusieurs de ses athlètes se sont qualifiés pour OFSAA. L'équipe junior homme de soccer a gagné deux matchs importants et se prépare pour les championnats Kawarthas. Les équipes féminines junior et senior de basket-ball ont terminé leur saison régulière et se préparent activement pour les championnats Kawarthas, qui auront lieu le 6 novembre. La plupart des femme finissantes de l'équipe senior ont joué pendant les quatre années du l'ecole et cette année est importante pour elles. Tout au long du mois d'octobre, elles ont très bien joué et ont démontré une grande progression, en jouant une défense solide et en améliorant leurs compétences. Enfin, l'équipe masculine senior de volleyball a connu un excellent mois d'octobre, a continué à se battre avec acharnement et a terminé le mois en remportant la première place au classement général des qualifications pour les championnats Kawarthas. L'équipe accueillera les championnats Kawarthas la première semaine de novembre.

Le mois d'octobre avait beaucoup ce qui se passe et HHSS est excitantes pour ce qui peut arriver en novembre

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Interested applicants may submit their resume and cover letter to Sonja Marx at hr@dysartetal.ca, and indicate Digital Transformation Specialist as the subject. Applications must be submitted via email and may be accepted until 4:00 pm on Friday, November 28, 2025, with an anticipated start date of February 2, 2026.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

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COMING EVENTS

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Meeting Space for Rent: Blue Sky Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright open space downtown with private entrance and washroom. Available for rent by the hour, half or full day. Contact: **705-457-3500** info@haliburtonchiropractic.com

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Classifieds

Call 705-457-1037
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Deadline Friday at 12 pm

COMING EVENTS

IT'S A CHRISTMAS CRISIS. Come for the cookies and stay for the chaos. Presented by the Loop Troup little theatre. Tinsel, Turkey & Turmoil at the Lloyd Watson Centre, Wilberforce. 2 Shows. Saturday, November 22 at 7pm and Sunday, November 23 at 2pm. Advance Tickets $15 at Agnew's General Store or $20 at the door. For more information contact 705-448-2290 or 613-334-1953. marybarker@bell.net

The annual craft Sale of the Wilberforce Heritage Guild. **HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE**. Lloyd Watson Centre, 2249 Loop Rd., Wilberforce. **Saturday, November 29**. Hours 9:00am to 2:00pm. Lunch will be available from the Wilberforce Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Lots of great items for sale from our large room of venders, including holiday treats & baked goods, Christmas decorations and a large variety of gift items. Questions & information for venders' contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598, or email wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

IN MEMORIAM

PAWSON

In loving memory of
Our father Trevor,
July 20, 1920 - Nov. 19, 2011
Our mother Lolly,
July 27, 1922 - Oct. 1, 2008
And our brother Paul,
May 9, 1948 - Aug. 30, 1965
I can't believe it's been 60 years
To know them, was to love them.
Ross, Carole, Trevor and Families

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
Beverly Arden Upton (nee Winterfield)

Passed away peacefully at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay on Thursday, November 6, 2025, in her 92nd year.

Beloved wife of the late Allan. Dear mother of Denise Brown (deceased), Teri Mason (Brian-deceased), Dave Pettes (Darlene), Jimmy Pettes (Cindy). Loving grandma to Erika, Megan, Leigha, Kenzie, Jamie Lee, Ashley, Jaimie, Lindsay, Melissa, Tanner and to 18 great grandchildren. Fondly remembered by the Upton Family and by her many friends. Beverly had a full life working at Hyland Crest for many years, managing and volunteering the Maple Lake United Church, she volunteered and was the past president at Community Care for 20 years.

Friends were invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Beverly's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception was followed in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Cremation to follow.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation- Community Care (HHHSF-Community Care) would be appreciated by the family.

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2	7	5	1	3	9	4	8	6
8	9	6	7	5	4	3	2	1
4	1	3	6	8	2	9	7	5
1	8	9	5	7	3	6	4	2
3	2	7	4	6	8	1	5	9
6	5	4	2	9	1	8	3	7
7	6	8	9	4	5	2	1	3
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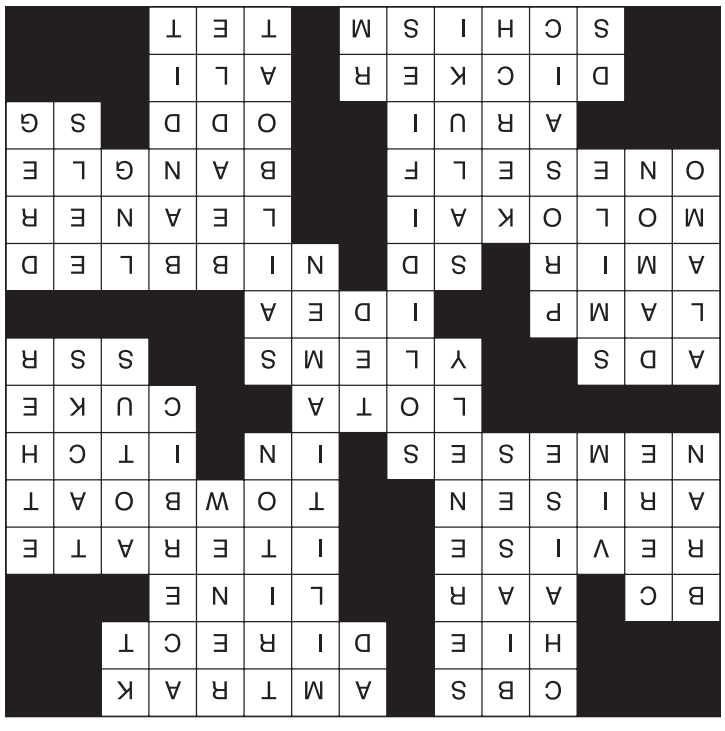

Get the Word Out

Let people know about your event. Send it in to our FREE community events listing in the Haliburton Echo, Minden Times and County Life. Email the basics to: classifieds@haliburtonpress.com.

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Changes for 'double–hatters' welcome news

CHAD INGRAM
Staff Reporter

The Ford government has tabled legislation proposing changes to firefighting services, legislation that is welcome news to small communities across Ontario including the municipalities of Haliburton County.

Those changes, part of the government's Bill 57 introduced mid-November, will eliminate some existing barriers to what is known as "double-hatting." Double-hatters are full-time firefighters who serve with departments other than the one where they centrally employed, such as the volunteer fire departments in the communities where they live.

The firefighters' union has essentially outlawed the practice. Seeking to unionize part-time positions, the union has taken disciplinary action against double-hatters in the past, including issuing suspensions and fines. Its position has largely involved concerns around liability when double-hatters are injured.

see FIRE page 9

Uplifting evening
Alex Jowett, left, and India enjoy one of the balloons the Lions Club was giving out in downtown Haliburton on Friday evening before the Santa Claus Parade. The parade brought out crowds of families to the main street. More photos on page 3.
/JENN WATT Staff

Invasive beetle found in neighbouring areas

SUE TIFFIN
Staff Reporter

The presence of the emerald ash borer hasn't been confirmed in Haliburton yet, but the invasive wood-boring beetle has been identified in Muskoka and City of Kawartha Lakes and it's just a matter of time before the insect establishes itself here.

The emerald ash borer, native to Asia, is a small beetle with a metallic green back and emerald green underside. It's believed to have crossed into Ontario at Windsor from the Detroit area, where it might have arrived in wood packaging or pallets. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency calls it "highly destructive," as it attacks and kills all species of ash and is already responsible for killing millions of trees in North America.

Infestations now exist across much of southern Ontario, according to the provincial government's information page about the insect, from Lambton County north to Grey County and east to Renfrew County and Ottawa. It's also been found on Manitoulin Island and in Sault Ste. Marie. The emerald ash borer was confirmed to be in Fenelon Falls in 2013, and just this past September in Bracebridge and Gravenhurst.

"We've been running this program for

see EMERALD page 2

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Community carols

Minden Hills locals gathered together on Friday, Nov. 14 to sing carols and sip hot chocolate as the town tree was lit up. The event celebrated the kick-off of the holiday season in the community. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Wine winners

At the front, Marlene Robinson and Wine on Wheels winner Davida Freel hold Freel's new wheelbarrow. In the back, Minden Healthcare Auxillary members Peggy Cassils, Cecille Gibbons, and Mickey Bonham. Freel, a Minden resident, says that she was estatic she could support the auxillary and that her winning is a wonderful suprise. Money raised from the Wine on Wheels fundraiser will be going towards new MRI equipment, mammogram technology, the adult day program, and more. The group says that they completely sold out of tickets and the fundraiser was a huge success. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Agnes Jamieson closure this week

The Agnes Jamieson Gallery will be closed November 18 to 21 as we install our next exhibit.

Join us starting on Saturday, Nov. 22, for an exhibit featuring artwork from our permanent collection. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is by donation.

For questions regarding the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, please call the Community Services Department at 705-286-1260 x 542. For more information, visit the Township of Minden Hills website at www.mindenhills.ca.

Submitted

www.mindenhills.ca **In Case of Emergency Dial 911 / After-Hours Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247**

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

STRATEGIC PLAN – HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MINDEN HILLS

The Township of Minden Hills is working with Karen Jones Consulting Inc. to develop a Strategic Plan. We will be hosting sessions to gather information regarding priorities, opportunities for growth, collaboration, and more.

- Virtual Community Session – Wednesday, November 19, 2025 5:30 to 7:30 pm via Zoom to register email lfitton@mindenhills.ca
- Community Session – Thursday, November 27, 2025 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena Community Room 1
- Business Session – Friday, November 28, 2025 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena Community Room 1

The sessions are open to everyone. Kindly register to assist with session logistics. For information visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom or email admin@mindenhills.ca.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- The Agnes Jamieson Gallery will be closed November 18 - 21, 2025 as we install our next exhibit. Join us starting on Saturday, November 22 for an exhibit featuring artwork from our permanent collection. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.
- On Friday, November 21, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre invites families to join in our PA Day activities. Seasonal crafts, exhibits, and interactive experiences will be offered at Nature's Place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with admission by donation. In the afternoon, enjoy a free movie screening of *Mr. Bean's Holiday* (2007) in the Welch Room at 1:00 pm.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

JOIN IN ON THE FUN

It's not too late to join one of our PA Day programs this Friday! Join us for a morning of fun at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena in our half day camp or one of the drop-in programs we have available in the afternoon.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

November 27 – Regular Council Meeting
December 11 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

REPORTING ISSUES

Reporting issues such as road condition or maintenance needs can be done by calling 705-286-3144 Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. After hours emergencies can be reported by calling 1-866-856-3247.

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